

The Public Health Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic in Cambridge

COVID-19 WEEKLY REPORT

CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

MARCH 29, 2021



Cambridge
Public Health
Department

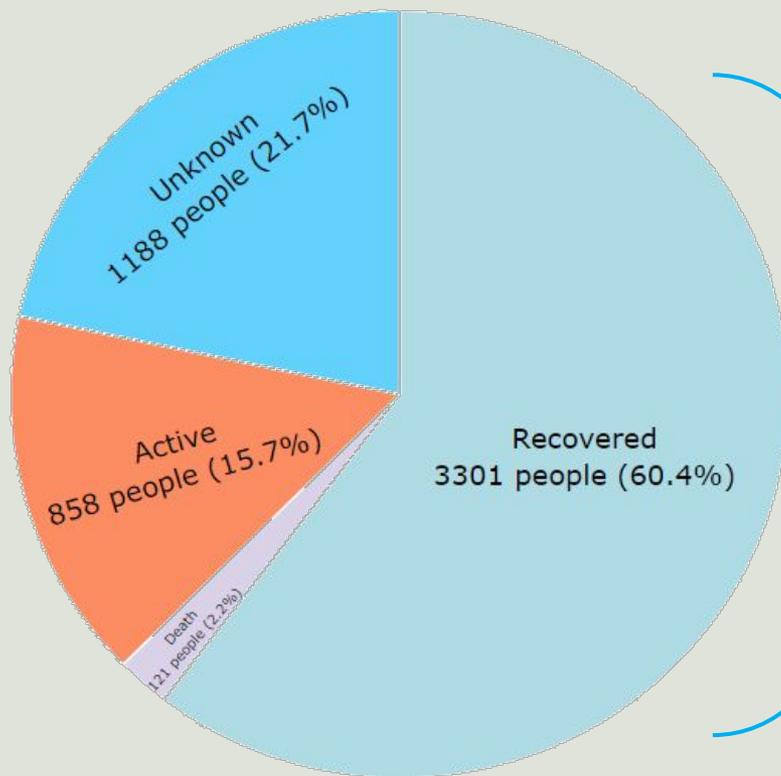


CHA Cambridge
Health Alliance



Case Snapshot (as of March 28)

New infection rates among Cambridge residents have increased since mid-February, mirroring statewide trends.



5,468 Total Cases¹

(confirmed, probable and suspect)

- 5,164 in the community
- 304 cases in long-term cares

121 Deaths¹

- 63% of deaths were among LTC residents

Active Cases¹

- 16% of all cases are active

22 Confirmed Cases per 100,000¹

(7-day average for March 21–27)

Test Positivity²

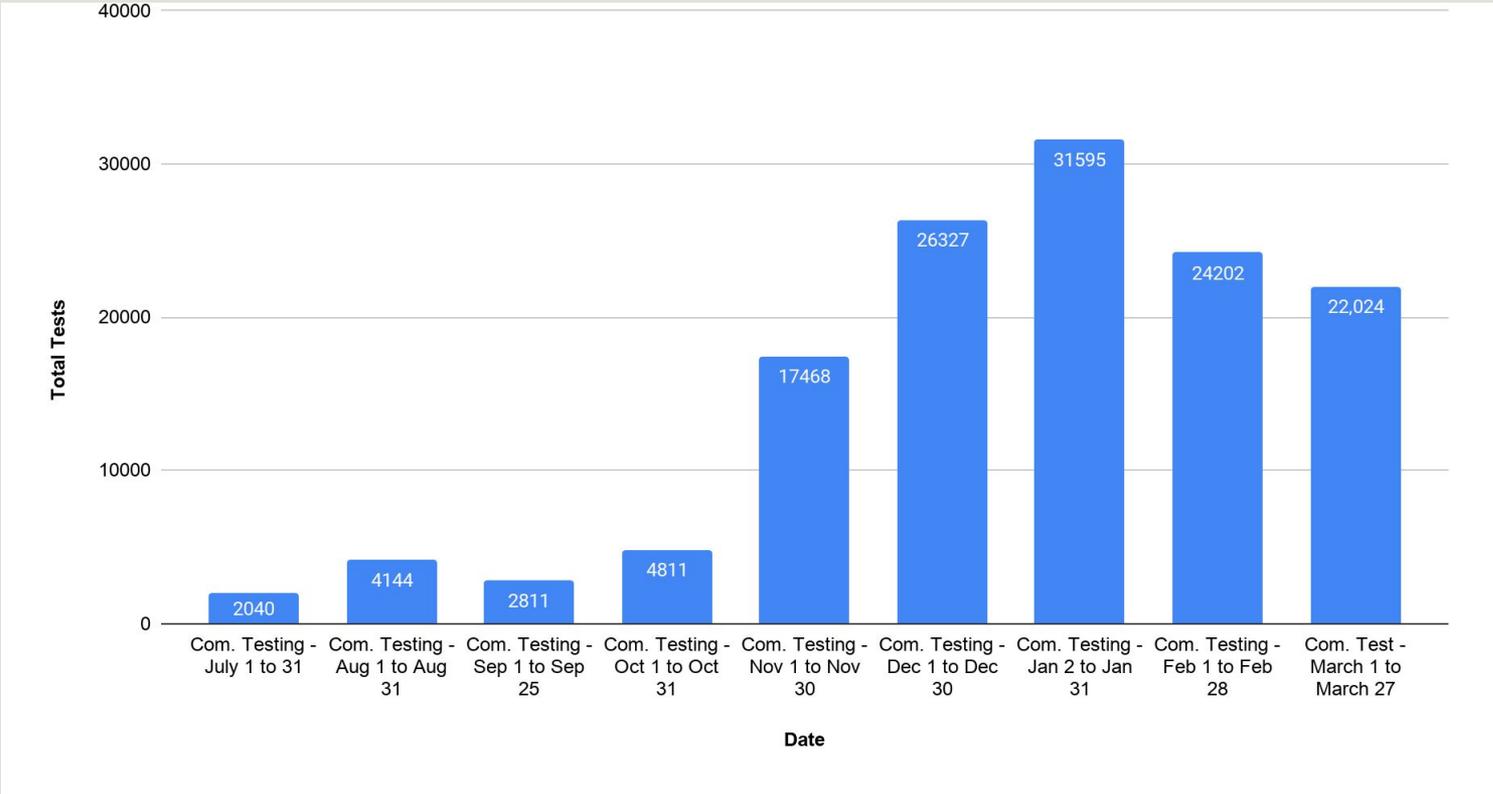
- 0.43% (2-week period ending March 20)

COVID Variants

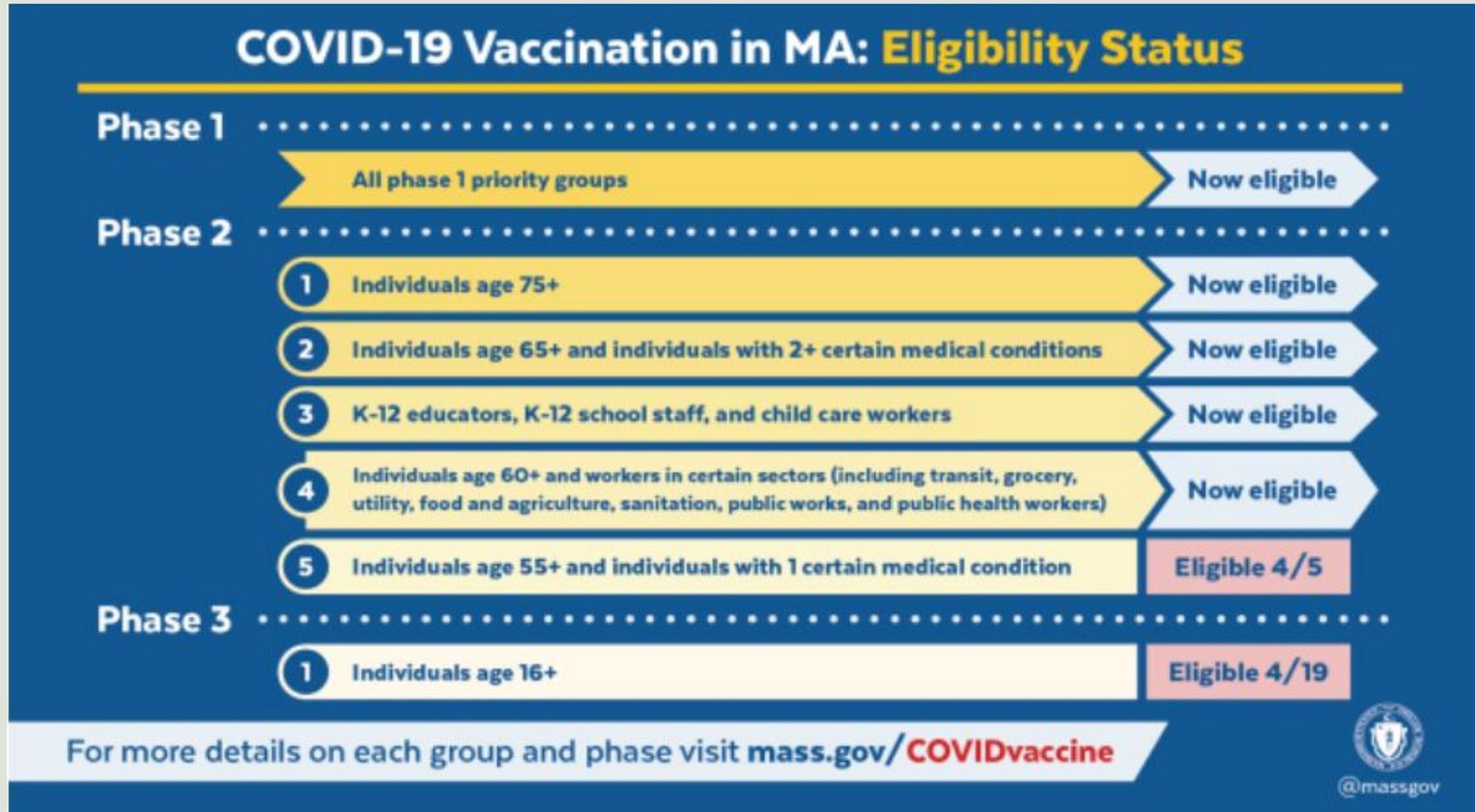
What the experts are saying ...

- **Cambridge EAP:** The B.1.1.7 variant may now be responsible for around 30% of new cases in MA based on national data trends and small-sample targeted sequencing of MA cases by various laboratories.
- **Massachusetts Department of Public Health:** The B.1.1.7 variant is circulating widely in Massachusetts; concern that P1 and B.1.351 will gain a foothold in MA.
- **Cambridge Public Health Department:** The B.1.1.7 variant is likely a factor in the rising infection rates in Cambridge and MA, along with pandemic fatigue.

COVID-19 Community Testing in Cambridge



COVID-19 Vaccine Update



State Vaccine Updates

- **29% of Massachusetts residents** have received at least one dose of vaccine, as March 23.¹
- MA vaccine supply increased 25% for week of March 19-25 compared to prior week, with over 520,000 doses shipped to MA from the federal government.²
- Timeline for remaining groups:
 - **April 5:** Residents age 55+ and those with one medical condition that meets state criteria.
 - **April 19:** General public age 16+.
- Residents can pre-register to book an appointment at a mass vaccination site at mass.gov/COVIDVaccine.

¹ Massachusetts Department of Public Health Weekly COVID-19 Municipality Vaccination Report, March 25, 2021. ² Massachusetts Department of Public Health Daily COVID-19 Vaccine Report (March 25).

City Vaccine Update

Phase 2 Eligible Groups

The Cambridge Pandemic Collaborative (CPC) began administering vaccines in early January. As of March 26:

- **2,607 eligible people** had received at least one dose (Moderna) or the single-dose vaccine (J&J) at City-run clinics.
- **100% of Moderna vaccine** received had been administered.
- **Cambridge Housing Authority senior/disabled housing:**
 - For the week ending March 26, a total of 211 people had received at least one dose (Moderna) or the single-dose (J & J) in CHA senior/disabled housing, and in other low-income housing.
 - This week, the CPC will continue vaccinating seniors in other CHA housing.

City Vaccine Update: Homebound Vaccination Program

- CPHD, Cambridge Housing Authority, Council on Aging, and Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services continue to work to identify and screen residents who meet the specific criteria for homebound status.
- CPHD has vaccinated 11 homebound individuals with vaccine remaining from clinics held in CHA senior, disabled housing, and in other eligible CHA housing.*
 - These individuals are known to the Council on Aging and CPHD as homebound due to flu clinic data from earlier this calendar year.

* As of March 26, 2021 at 12 p.m.

City Vaccine Update (as of March 23)

Vaccination Race/Ethnicity Data

The proportion of Cambridge residents by race and ethnicity who have received **at least one dose of vaccine** in Cambridge and Massachusetts:

Race/Ethnicity	Cambridge ¹	MA ²
Asian	12%	18%
Black	24%	19%
Hispanic/Latinx	14%	12%
Multiracial	18%	26%
White	25%	29%
Total % of all residents who have received at least one dose	24%	29%

¹MA Department of Public Health Weekly COVID-19 Municipality Vaccination Report, March 25, 2021.² Race/Ethnicity Data: MA Department of Public Health Weekly Vaccine Report, March 25, 2021. Data for Cambridge and Massachusetts is current as of March 23, 2021.

COVID-19 Vaccine Communications

Clinician Speakers Bureau

- Cambridge Public Schools Educators and Staff (April 1)
- Haitian Community; co-sponsored with Cambridge Public Library (April 19)
- Additional community forums in process: Arab speaking; Spanish speaking; Portuguese speaking; working with the Cambridge Black Pastors Alliance and Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center.

Communications Campaign

- Multi-pronged and micro-targeted campaign is being operationalized by communications consultants, City, and CPHD.
- Spring holiday guidance released (Passover, Easter, Ramadan).

Cambridge Public Schools Testing

- **PCR Testing.** As of October 20, there have been:

CPS Staff:

- A total of 1,463 unique adults tested
- A total of 21,538 tests administered

CPS Students:

- A total of 1,266 unique children tested
- A total of 4,185 tests administered

- Since October 20, **50 positive cases** have been identified through school PCR testing.
- **Pooled Testing.** On Monday, March 22, CPHD administered:
 - 245 testing pools; approximately 1,450 children swabbed.

Behind the Numbers

CPHD and City partners have been vaccinating Cambridge residents since January, and the voices of our community have important stories and testimony:

“My brother is a resident at (residence deleted) and received the 2nd vaccine today. I am so appreciative to CPH and Cambridge Fire Department and Cambridge Housing Authority for all their work in making sure the elderly were able to be vaccinated; in their homes, no less. I am so relieved to have my brother vaccinated.”